

1 We claim:

2 1. An email screening system comprising:

3 a recipient computer connected to a network;

4 an email screening server connected to the recipient computer over the network;

5 a sender computer; connected to the recipient computer and the email screening

6 computer over the network;

7 wherein said recipient computer further comprises instructions for forwarding all email

8 messages received to the email screening server; and

9 wherein the email screening server further comprises instructions for screening the email

10 for viruses and notifying the sender computer that the email will be forwarded to the recipient

11 computer for a fee.

12

13 2. The email screening system of claim 1 wherein the recipient computer further comprises

14 a password assigned to the recipient computer by the email screening computer.

15

16 3. The email screening system of claim 2 wherein the instructions stored by said email

17 screening server further comprise instructions for holding all email messages without the

18 password.

19

20 4. The email screening system of claim 2 wherein the email screening server further

21 comprises instructions for alerting the recipient computer that an email message without

22 the password is being held by the email screening computer.

1
2 5. The email screening system of claim 4 wherein the instructions stored by the email
3 screening server further comprise instructions for charging the sender computer a fee to forward
4 said email message without the password to the recipient computer.

5
6 6. A method for detecting viruses in email and administrating email for a recipient
7 comprising:

8 an email screening server connected to a network assigning a password to
9 an email recipient connected to the network;
10 rerouting email received by the email recipient to the email screening server over
11 the network;
12 screening the email by the email screening server for viruses;
13 forwarding screened email to a recipient if the email possess a recipient password;
14 and
15 holding email at the email screening server when the email is
16 without the recipient password.

17
18 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising:
19 notifying the recipient that the email without the recipient password
20 is being held;
21 notifying the sender that the email without the recipient password
22 is being held; and

1
2 charging the sender a fee for sending the email without the recipient password.

3

4 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

5 providing the recipient with the option to receive the email without
6 the recipient password.

7 9. The method of claim 7 further comprising sharing the fee charged to the sender
8 with the recipient when the recipient accepts the email without the recipient password.

9 10. A method of virus screening of email comprising:

10 re-routing email from a recipient to a scanning server over a network;
11 scanning the email for a virus;
12 notifying the sender of the email that the scanned email will be sent to the
13 recipient for a fee;
14 sending the scanned email to the recipient over the network if the fee is paid; and
15 sharing the fee with the recipient.

16 11. The method of virus screening of email of claim 10 further comprising:

17 the scanning server establishing a password for the recipient;
18 the recipient notifying selected email senders of the password;
19 the scanning server scanning the email for the password;
20 the scanning server forwarding the email from the selected senders when the
21 email possesses the password; and
22 the scanning server making no charge to the selected e-mail sender.

1 12. The method of claim 10 further comprising automatically forwarding email when
2 said email message has an identification password.

3 13. The method of claim 10 further comprising:

4 sending a notification message to said sender computer
5 when an identification password is not detected; and
6 charging said sender a fee to send said email to said recipient.

7 14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

8 sharing a portion of said fee with said recipient.

9 15. The method of claim 10 further comprising:

10 sending a notification message to said sender computer and said recipient
11 computer
12 when an identification password is not detected; and
13 providing a recipient with an option to pay for screening and sending
14 said email when said sender does not pay for screening and sending said
15 email.
16